

## Abstract of the Disclosure

An audio encoder converts an input sound signal into a plurality of compressed frame data pieces in an sound signal compression coder, determines the importance of each  
5 bit in a classification unit of a transmission line coder based on the decoding quality in the presence of a transmission error, and classifies the bits into a plurality of classes. The audio encoder selects one of the three types of processing including convolution coding and  
10 addition of CRC check codes, convolution coding only, and no coding, in descending order of importance in the presence of a transmission error for each class. Then, the audio encoder adds preamble information and a synchronization signal in a multiplexer to generate a bit  
15 stream. It becomes possible to suppress degradation of a decoded sound signal without additional redundant bits.